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Details: Public Hearing – November 15, 2007

(FORM UPDATED: 07/12/2010)

**WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS**

2007-08

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on ... Education (SC-Ed)

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**
- Record of Comm. Proceedings ... **RCP**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt**
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule**
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions
 - (**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
 - (**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

9MB

Stromme, Denise

From: Chapins [dchapin2@wi.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2007 7:00 AM
To: Rep.Gundrum; Sen.Lazich; Sen.Lehman
Subject: Senate Hearing on SJR 27

My name is Deborah Chapin. I am a taxpayer and parent in the Waukesha School District. I am very concerned that the current state funding law for education is hurting schools. Although I cannot attend the Senate Hearing on SJR 27 November 15 in person to indicate my support for comprehensive funding reform, I am closely following this effort. I encourage you to support the goals of this resolution and work with all legislators to develop a new funding plan. Wisconsin needs a plan whose primary purpose is to educate children. Investing in education is the best, most effective use of state funds to ensure a thriving economy and a great future for the state of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,
Deborah Chapin

Stromme, Denise

From: Terry Richter [jill.richter@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2007 7:32 AM
To: Sen.Lehman

My name is Jill Richter, I am a taxpayer and parent and in the Waukesha School District. I am very concerned that the current state funding law for education is hurting schools. Although I cannot attend the Senate Hearing on SJR 27 November 15 in person to indicate my support for comprehensive funding reform, I am closely following this effort. I encourage you to support the goals of this resolution and work with all legislators to develop a new funding plan. Wisconsin needs a plan whose primary purpose is to educate children. Investing in education is the best, most effective use of state funds to ensure a thriving economy and a great future for the state of Wisconsin.

PLEASE DO SOMETHING!!

Jill Richter

Stromme, Denise

From: Dennis Batchelet [dbatchelet@charter.net]
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2007 7:34 AM
To: Sen.Kanavas; Sen. Lehman@legis.wisconsin.gov; Rep. Pridemore@legis.wisconsin.gov
Subject: SJR27

Since 1993, I have been carefully watching what has happened to public schools in Wisconsin.

Because financial affairs with schools have become so dire, I urge you to support SJR27 when it comes before the legislature as it will help to restore the quality to Wisconsin schools. Discrediting schools and then defunding them has robbed our kids of the opportunities they need to revitalize Wisconsin's economy.

I will be in attendance when this bill receives a hearing on November 15th.

Dennis Batchelet
1534 Red Oak Dr.
Hartford, WI
53027

Stromme, Denise

From: Sherie Crowley [slcrowley@wi.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2007 8:05 AM
To: Sen.Lehman
Subject: State Funding Law

Dear Legislator:

My name is Sherie L. Crowley and I am a parent, taxpayer and employee of the Waukesha School District. I am very concerned that the current state funding law for education is hurting schools. I cannot attend the Senate Hearing on SJR 27 on November 15 but want to indicate my support for comprehensive funding reform. I encourage you to support the goals of this resolution and work with all legislators to develop a new funding plan. Wisconsin needs a plan whose primary purpose is to educate children. Investing in education is the best, most effective use of state funds to ensure a thriving economy and a great future for the state of Wisconsin.

11/14/2007

Stromme, Denise

From: Rika Wiemer [ewyemer@wi.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2007 8:23 AM
To: Sen.Lehman
Subject: Fw: Hearing on SJR 27
Importance: High

Senator Lehman;

My name is Eyrekr Wiemer. I am a taxpayer and parent in the Waukesha School District. I am very concerned that the current state funding law for education is hurting schools and ultimately the children of Waukesha County.

Although I cannot attend the Senate Hearing on SJR 27 in person to indicate my support for comprehensive funding reform, I am closely following this effort. I encourage you to support the goals of this resolution and work with all legislators to develop a new funding plan.

Wisconsin needs a plan whose primary purpose is to educate children. Investing in education is the best, most effective use of state funds to ensure a thriving economy and a great future for the state of Wisconsin.

I speak for friends and family in Waukesha County in your respective districts. Please seriously consider funding reform so that our children thrive in Waukesha County and throughout Wisconsin.

Kindest regards,

Eyrekr Elizabeth Wiemer
S1W25825 Northview Rd
Waukesha WI 53188
262-650-6718

Stromme, Denise

From: Bruce MacIntyre [bmacintyre@wi.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2007 9:41 AM
To: Sen.Lehman
Subject: School Funding Reform

Dear Sen, Lehman:

Our names are Bruce and Kathy MacIntyre. We are taxpayers and grandparents in the Waukesha School District. We are very concerned that the current state funding law for education is destroying good education in our public schools. We will be attending the Senate Hearing on SJR 27 November 15 to indicate our support for comprehensive school funding reform. We encourage you to support the goals of this resolution and work with all legislators to develop a new funding plan. Wisconsin needs a plan whose primary purpose is to educate children. Investing in education is the best, most effective use of state funds to ensure a thriving economy and a great future for the state of Wisconsin.

This is an urgent need in Waukesha and in many other places in Wisconsin! And will be soon for many other school districts in Wisconsin. Allowing this to continue will be devastating for Wisconsin in many ways. This issue needs immediate attention and action by our elected representatives.

We will be looking to you for leadership and support of needed school funding formula change!

Sincerely,

Bruce & Kathy MacIntyre
2812 Windsor Place
Waukesha, WI 53188
(262) 547-7870

Stromme, Denise

From: Maggie Braun-Thompson [bramag@viroqua.k12.wi.us]
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2007 9:50 AM
To: Sen.Lehman
Subject: Please support Senate joint resolution 27!

As a Wisconsin educator for the past 17 years, I have seen first hand the disparity of school funding around the state. I have worked in an urban district, a northern vacation area district, and now a small rural South Western district. Because of the way school funding is calculated per student and based on property taxes, those students who live in areas with rural/farming communities and in communities that the population is spread out more sparsely between property have suffered increasing declines in educational programs and opportunities.

It has been clear that the urban (wealthier) districts are able to provide much more educational opportunities for students and continue to offer them despite the decreasing state funding within the last decade and a half. Although they too have had declines, the formula unfairly targets the rural/lower income areas of the state. Although the populations of students may be lower in these areas, they continue to have most of the same needs represented as those in the wealthier districts. Something must be done to amend this disparity.

I strongly recommend that you pass Senate Joint Resolution 27 on Thursday, November 15. It is a step in the right direction for education in this state.

Sincerely,
Maggie Braun-Thompson
English Educator, Viroqua High School, Viroqua, WI

Stromme, Denise

From: Tracy Ojeda [ojedat@watertown.k12.wi.us]
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2007 10:09 AM
To: Sen.Lehman
Subject: Top priority - School Funding Reform

November 14, 2007

Re: Investing in your future and mine...reform in state funding for education.

Dear Senator,

My name is Tracy Ojeda. I am a taxpayer, former student of, and parent in the Waukesha School District. I am extremely concerned that the current state funding law for education is crippling our schools across the state. Although I cannot personally attend the Senate Hearing on SJR 27 November 15 to indicate my support for comprehensive funding reform, I am very closely following this effort. I urge you to support the goals of this resolution and to work together with all legislators to develop a new funding plan.

Wisconsin needs a plan whose primary purpose is to educate children. Investing in education is the best, most effective use of state funds to ensure a thriving economy and a great future for the state of Wisconsin. Parents (taxpayers), students, teachers, administrators, and school board members are united on this issue. Our schools simply cannot stay competitive when the only choices they are left with each and every year are cutting programs and staff. Waukesha, for example, has been forced to cut over 100 teachers/staff in the past several years. It is sucking the life right out of our schools.

Wisconsin has stood proud on it's history of providing a strong education for its' children. We are losing ground my friends. We are losing ground very quickly to neighboring states and our funding formula for education is the reason why. You have the power to change that. Please make your support of this resolution a top priority.

Thank you so much for your time and service to this great state we live in.

Sincerely,
Tracy Ojeda

Stromme, Denise

From: Cathy Marshall [cmarschall@smareps.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2007 10:11 AM
To: Sen.Lehman
Subject: Concerned parent & taxpayer

Senator Lehman-

My name is Cathy Marschall. I am a taxpayer and a parent in the Waukesha School District. I have great concern that the current state funding law is hurting our schools. I am attending the hearing on SJR 27 November 15 to indicate my support for comprehensive funding reform. I encourage you to support the goals of this resolution and work with all the legislators to develop a new funding plan. Wisconsin needs a plan whose primary purpose is to educate children. Investing in education is the best, most effective use of state funds to ensure a thriving economy and a great future for the state of Wisconsin.

Thank you,

Cathy Marschall
Concerned parent & taxpayer in Waukesha, WI.

Cathy Marschall
Sales & Marketing Associates
262-255-6300

cmarschall@smareps.com
www.smareps.com

Stromme, Denise

From: Tracy Ojeda [ojedat@watertown.k12.wi.us]
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2007 10:23 AM
To: Sen.Lehman
Subject: Top Priority - School Funding Reform

I apologize, my last e-mail to you did not include my mailing address...please see below. Thank you!

November 14, 2007

Re: Investing in your future and mine...reform in state funding for education.

Dear Senator,

My name is Tracy Ojeda. I am a taxpayer, former student of, and parent in the Waukesha School District. I am extremely concerned that the current state funding law for education is crippling our schools across the state. Although I cannot personally attend the Senate Hearing on SJR 27 November 15 to indicate my support for comprehensive funding reform, I am very closely following this effort. I urge you to support the goals of this resolution and to work together with all legislators to develop a new funding plan.

Wisconsin needs a plan whose primary purpose is to educate children. Investing in education is the best, most effective use of state funds to ensure a thriving economy and a great future for the state of Wisconsin. Parents (taxpayers), students, teachers, administrators, and school board members are united on this issue. Our schools simply cannot stay competitive when the only choices they are left with each and every year are cutting programs and staff. Waukesha, for example, has been forced to cut over 100 teachers/staff in the past several years. It is sucking the life out of our schools.

Wisconsin has stood proud on it's history of providing a strong education for its' children. We are losing ground my friends. We are losing ground very quickly to neighboring states and our funding formula for education is the reason why. You have the power to change that. Please make your support of this resolution a top priority.

Thank you so much for your time and service to this great state we live in.

Sincerely,
Tracy Ojeda
1909 Patricia Lane
Waukesha, WI 53188

Stromme, Denise

From: Marybeth Mack [mackmom48@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2007 10:44 AM
To: sen.kanavas@legis.wisconsin.gov
Cc: Sen.Lehman; Sen.Lazich; Sen.Kedzie; Rep.Newcomer; Rep.Gundrum; Rep.Kramer; Rep.Zipperer
Subject: Senate Hearing on SJR27

My name is Marybeth Mack. I am a taxpayer and parent in the Waukesha School District. I am very concerned that the current state funding law for education is hurting schools, especially in Waukesha which as you know, is already struggling terribly! Although I cannot attend the Senate Hearing on SJR27 November 15th in person to indicate my total support for comprehensive funding reform, I am closely following this effort. I encourage you to support the goals of this resolution and work with **all** legislators to develop a new funding plan. Wisconsin desperately needs a plan whose primary purpose is to educate children! Investing in education is the best, most effective use of state funds to ensure a thriving economy and a great future for the state of Wisconsin!

11/14/2007

Stromme, Denise

From: Lori Patch [patch@maqs.net]
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2007 11:43 AM
To: Sen.Lehman
Cc: Sen.Olsen
Subject: SJR27

Dear Sen. Lehman:

I support SJR27 and hope that you and your constituents support it too. It is so important that our government do the right thing in funding our public schools. It is time to take action and think of our children!

Thank you.

Lori Paczkowski
212 Douglas Ave.
Montello, WI 53949
patch@maqs.net

Stromme, Denise

From: Bianca Tomasini-Johansson [btomasinijoha@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2007 12:35 PM
To: Sen.Lehman
Subject: SUPPORT FOR SJR27

Senator Lehman,

I am writing to you in support of SJR27 to change the way schools are funded (underfunded). As a parent of 3 children who have attended the Madison public schools for 8 years, I have witnessed a clear deterioration in the education my children are receiving. I can mostly remark on the lack of resources (personnel) that are needed to attend to children with special and/or behavioural needs, as it is federally mandated. This impacts on the quality and amount of time a teacher can dedicate to his or her students. If a special ed teacher or an assistant are not present in the classrooms, disturbances can be so great and continuous that little teaching/learning takes place. **WE NEED SUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ALL STUDENTS, OTHERWISE NO ONE LEARNS.** In addition, the condition of the schools is appalling: lack of custodial staff leads to dirty, grimy classrooms and bathrooms. Not only is it unhygienic but, who can learn in such an environment. I could list many more items, but the bottom line is: **OUR CHILDREN NEED TO KNOW WE AS A COMMUNITY BELIEVE THEIR EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT AND A PRIORITY,** and not just something to be left to the whims of property tax payers on a particular year of referenda. Priority should be given to education, and taxes should be called in from those corporate loopholes and luxury sales. Otherwise, what kind of future can we expect for our children, our communities: a mediocre one at best.

Thank you for your attention,
Bianca Tomasini-Johansson
4926 Odana Rd
Madison WI 53711

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Stromme, Denise

From: Laura Cameron [laurac@wi.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2007 1:28 PM
To: Sen.Lehman
Subject: State Funding Law for our Schools

Senator Lehman, My name is Laura Cameron and I am a taxpayer and parent in the Waukesha School District. I am very concerned that the current state funding law for education is hurting schools. I am attending the Senate Hearing on SJR 27 November 15 to indicate my support for comprehensive funding reform. I encourage you to support the goals of this resolution and work with all legislators to develop a new funding plan. Wisconsin needs a plan whose primary purpose is to educate children. Investing in education is the best, most effective use of state funds to ensure a thriving economy and a great future for the state of Wisconsin.

Please help to save our schools - we can't afford to take any more cuts.

Thank You,

Laura Cameron
2517 Fox River Circle
Waukesha, WI 53189

Stromme, Denise

From: Patty Koshak [pwkoshak@earthlink.net]
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2007 1:41 PM
To: Sen.Kedzie; Rep.Newcomer; Rep.Nass
Cc: Sen.Lehman
Subject: School Funding Reform

Dear Senator Kedzie, Representative Nass, and Representative Newcomer,

My name is Patty Koshak. I am a taxpayer, actively involved parent in the Kettle Moraine School District, and firm believer in the fact that you, my State Legislators, CAN make a difference in the way Wisconsin's public schools are funded. I am very concerned that the current state funding law for education is hurting our schools and, in turn, the future of our children. I am attending the Senate Hearing on SJR 27 tomorrow, November 15, to show my support for timely and comprehensive funding reform. I encourage you to support the goals of this resolution and work with all legislators to develop a new funding plan. Wisconsin needs a plan whose primary purpose it to educate children. Investing in education is the best, most effective use of state funds to ensure a thriving economy and a great future for the state of Wisconsin.

This is your opportunity to make history. This is ***your*** opportunity to be a leader for change, for reform, for publicly showing Wisconsin taxpayers that the status quo is unacceptable.

With great optimism I send my regards,
Patty Koshak
W330 S3289 Bryn Mawr Road
Dousman, WI 53118
pwkoshak@earthlink.net

Stromme, Denise

From: WILLIAMJMARIAN HALL [marabil1@msn.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2007 3:01 PM
To: Sen.Lehman
Subject: Support SJR 27

TO: SENATOR JOHN LEHMAN
FROM: MARIAN SEAGREN HALL
DATE: 14 NOVEMBER 2007
RE: SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 27

I encourage the support by committee members and legislators of Senate Joint Resolution 27, calling for a comprehensive change in the state's school-funding system. Your committee will be hearing about many specific hardship cases for Wisconsin schools. Education is the background of a democracy. Our public schools need to be strong. Thank you.

Stromme, Denise

From: Heidi Reese [heidi.reese@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2007 3:38 PM
To: Sen.Lehman
Subject: Support of SJR 27

Dear Senator Lehman,

As a taxpayer and parent of 3 sons, I am very concerned about the current laws on education funding which have resulted in major reductions in staff and services in the school district of Waukesha, formerly noted for its high quality education. I am going to Madison tomorrow to show support for SJR 27, education funding reform. I believe this issue is critical both for the future wellbeing of our children and the economy of the State. I consider education to be a very effective use of State funds and would encourage you to support this legislation.

Thanks you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,
Heidi Reese
2331 Bramblewood Ct.
Waukesha, WI 53188

Stromme, Denise

From: Gayle Gonsior and Larry Fickbohm [gonsbohm@cheqnet.net]
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2007 3:38 PM
To: Sen.Lehman
Subject: senate joint resolution 27

I am sending this because I cannot come in person to the Nov. 15th hearing on Resolution 27, and I want my input to be heard.

As a school board member and a parent of 4 children in the very small school district of South Shore, I am begging the legislature to do the right thing and reform the school funding formula. It is past time to tinker with different parts of it. South Shore has a little over 220 students on it's rolls. We are 35 miles from the nearest other school so consolidation is out of the quesiotn. We have maged our budget scrupulously right to become efficient and effective with he pittanc of aid we get. We are a property rich (because of Lake Superior) and income poor (over 50% free and reduced lunches) district with an unusually high number of special need students (generally over 20% of the student population). This last budget helped - a little - with Gov. Doyle's and the Democrats' pushing - but not enough.

The formula should not rely on property taxes and should not be based upon arbitrary measures. Please force the legislature to design a formula or way of providing a free and equitable education to the children of Wisconsin per the Constitution that actually pays for the real costs, wherever a student may live.

Schools like ours and Florence cannot be disregarded as expendable because we live in sparsely populated, rural and poor income areas. My children have a right to their education as much as anyone in the populated south's. We are doing our best. Please do yours!

Thank you.

Gayle Gonsior

79730 Evergreen Rd.

Port Wing, WI 54865

Stromme, Denise

From: Korhorn, Glenn O. (GE Healthcare) [Glenn.Korhorn@med.ge.com]

Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2007 4:42 PM

Subject: Waukesha School District

My name is Glenn Korhorn, and I am a taxpayer and parent in the Waukesha Public School District. I am very concerned that the current state funding law for education is seriously hurting schools. Although I cannot attend the Senate Hearing on SJR 27 November 15 in person to indicate my support for comprehensive funding reform, I am closely following this effort.

I encourage you to support the goals of this resolution and work with all legislators to develop a new funding plan. Wisconsin needs a plan whose primary purpose is to educate children. Investing in education is the best, most effective use of state funds to ensure a thriving economy and a great future for the state of Wisconsin. There is no more important resource than our children, and the cuts have gotten too deep already. Further funding is required to keep people in this state and to ensure a future for commerce in this area. The school system was a big factor in my decision to settle my family here after leaving active military service 9 years ago. As part of company's onboarding group (General Electric Health Care), I interact with many new employees, and their number 1 reason for moving to this area is that "it is a great place to raise a family." Our public school system is a huge part of that reason. Please give this matter your attention and act to keep our schools adequately funded. Thank you

Respectfully,
Glenn Korhorn

Stromme, Denise

From: Jim Rocheleau [jimrocheleau@tds.net]
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2007 7:23 PM
To: Sen.Lehman
Subject: You Are Doing A Great Job!

My name is Jim Rocheleau. I am a taxpayer, parent and husband of a teacher in the Waukesha School District. I am very concerned that the current state funding law for education is hurting schools. Although I cannot attend the Senate Hearing on SJR 27 November 15 in person to indicate my support for comprehensive funding reform, I am closely following this effort. I encourage you to support the goals of this resolution and work with all legislators to develop a new funding plan. Wisconsin needs a plan whose primary purpose is to educate children. Investing in education is the best, most effective use of state funds to ensure a thriving economy and a great future for the state of Wisconsin.

Stromme, Denise

From: Kathy Bue, CPA [kbue@wi.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2007 7:43 PM
To: Sen.Lehman
Subject: Senate Hearing on school reform SJR27

Senator Lehman -

My 9 year old son currently attends Blair Elementary in the Waukesha School District. As a taxpayer and a parent, I am very concerned about the future of the education system in Wisconsin. Although work commitments prevent me from attending the Senate Hearing on SJR 27 November 15 in person to indicate my support for comprehensive funding reform, I am closely following this effort. I encourage you to support the goals of this resolution and work with all legislators to develop a new funding plan. Investing in education is the best, most effective use of state funds to ensure a thriving economy and a great future for the state of Wisconsin.

I strongly urge you to pursue comprehensive long-term school funding reform. As a voter in the last 21 elections, I ask you to please support SJR 27 and keep the quality in our state education systems. Thank you.

Kathy Bue, CPA
1121 Lawndale Avenue
Waukesha WI 53188
262-574-1539

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Stromme, Denise

From: Rob Geissler [robmary@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2007 7:47 PM
To: Sen.Lehman

Dear Senator Lehman,

Our names are Rob Geissler & Mary Moore-Geissler. We are taxpayers and parents of a 7th grader and a 10th grader in the Waukesha School District. We're extremely concerned that the current state funding law for education is hurting not just our kid's schools, but most schools in Wisconsin. Although we cannot attend the Senate Hearing on SJR 27 November 15 in person to indicate our support for comprehensive funding reform, we are closely following this effort. We encourage you to support the goals of this resolution and work with all legislators to develop a new funding plan. Wisconsin needs a plan whose primary purpose is to educate children. Investing in education is the best, most effective use of state funds to ensure a thriving economy and a great future for the state of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Rob Geissler & Mary Moore-Geissler

Stromme, Denise

From: Rick and Michele [rdykowski@wi.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2007 8:31 PM
To: Sen.Lehman
Cc: Sen.Kedzie; Sen.Lazich; Sen.Kanavas; Rep.Newcomer; Rep.Gundrum; Rep.Kramer; Rep.Zipperer
Subject: SJR 27

My name is Michele Scacco. I am a parent in the Waukesha School District. I am very concerned that the current state funding law for education is hurting schools. Although I cannot attend the Senate Hearing on SJR 27 November 15 in person to indicate my support for comprehensive funding reform, I am closely following this effort. I encourage you to support the goals of this resolution and work with all legislators to develop a new funding plan. Wisconsin needs a plan whose primary purpose is to educate children. Investing in education is the best, most effective use of state funds to ensure a thriving economy and a great future for the state of Wisconsin.

Sincerely
Michele M. Scacco

Stromme, Denise

From: Michael Atherton [mja6@mac.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2007 8:52 PM
To: Sen.Lehman; Sen.Kedzie; Sen.Lazich; Sen.Kanavas; Rep.Newcomer; Rep.Gundrum;
rep.kramer@wisconsin.gov
Subject: Public school funding

My name is Michael Atherton. I am a taxpayer and parent

in the Waukesha School District. I am very concerned that the current state funding law for education is hurting schools. Although I cannot attend the Senate Hearing on SJR 27 November 15 in person to indicate my support for comprehensive funding reform, I am closely following this effort. I encourage you to support the goals of this resolution and work with all legislators to develop a new funding plan. I would also like to see the state give school boards the option of providing alternate health care coverage for the teachers in their districts to reduce the burden on property taxes. Lets make the most effective use of state funds to ensure a thriving economy and a great future for the state of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,
Michael Atherton
Waukesha, WI

Stromme, Denise

From: Adam Panek [panquake98@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2007 8:57 PM
To: Sen.Risser; rep.pocan0@legis.wisconsin.gov
Cc: Sen.Lehman
Subject: Support SJR27 and School Funding Reform

Dear Senator Risser and Representative Pocan,

As a teacher in Madison Metropolitan School District, I want you to know that I support SJR27.

The school funding formula is not just failing, it is destructive. Too many districts and schools are making cuts year after year with no end in sight. Functioning schools have been reduced to stressful, distracting and unsafe environments.

In my experience in this district I have seen the steady toll the funding formula is taking on the children and the learning community. With less resources, children are forced into larger groups with less support. Wisconsin teachers are either overworked, leaving the profession or burning out. Supportive parents who can afford to look elsewhere, are moving their children away from the public schools. All this because, in the underfunded Wisconsin public school, learning is becoming less a creative exploration and more an exercise in survival.

How much longer can our state government de-fund our future? The implications of ignoring this problem are grave.

Please support SJR27. Attend the Senate Education Committee and listen up, on Thursday November 15th at 10:30 at 411 South in the State Capitol.

Sincerely,

**Adam Panek
Kindergarten/First Grade Teacher
1329 Dewey Ct. #1
Madison, WI 53703**

"Genius is eternal patience." -Michelangelo Buonarroti, sculptor, painter, architect, and poet (1475-1564)

11/15/2007

Stromme, Denise

From: GARY L STOUT [glstout@students.wisc.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2007 9:35 PM
To: Sen.Lehman
Subject: SJR27

Dear Senator Lehman,

As a teacher in Madison Metropolitan School District, I want you to know that I support SJR27.

The school funding formula is not just failing, it is destructive. Too many districts and schools are making cuts year after year with no end in sight. Functioning schools have been reduced to stressful, distracting and unsafe environments.

In my experience in this district I have seen the steady toll the funding formula is taking on the children and the learning community. With less resources, children are forced into larger groups with less support. Wisconsin teachers are either overworked, leaving the profession, or burning out. Supportive parents who can afford to look elsewhere, are moving their children away from the public schools. All this because, in the underfunded Wisconsin public school, learning is becoming less a creative exploration and more an exercise in survival.

How much longer can our state government de-fund our future? The implications of ignoring this problem are grave.

Please support SJR27.

Sincerely,
Gary L. Stout
360 W. Washington Ave. # 305
Madison, Wi. 53703

Stromme, Denise

From: Kathleen Phelan [TALLDOC@wi.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2007 10:25 PM
To: Sen.Lehman
Subject: Comprehensive funding law

My name is Kathleen Phelan. I am a taxpayer and parent in the Waukesha School District. I am very concerned that the current state funding law for education is hurting schools. Although I cannot attend the Senate Hearing on SJR 27 November 15 in person to indicate my support for comprehensive funding reform, I am closely following this effort. I encourage you to support the goals of this resolution and work with all legislators to develop a new funding plan. Wisconsin needs a plan whose primary purpose is to educate children. Investing in education is the best, most effective use of state funds to ensure a thriving economy and a great future for the state of Wisconsin.

Thank you for your interest and support in the future of the United States.

Sincerely,
Kathy Phelan

Stromme, Denise

From: Eileen Kron [eileen_kron@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 15, 2007 12:10 AM
To: Rep.Newcomer; Sen.Lehman
Subject: School reform

My name is Eileen Kron. I am a taxpayer and parent in the Waukesha School District. I am very concerned that the current state funding law for education is hurting schools. Although I cannot attend the Senate Hearing on SJR 27 November 15th in person to indicate my support for comprehensive funding reform, I am closely following this effort. I encourage you to support the goals of this resolution and work with all legislators to develop a new funding plan. Wisconsin needs a plan whose primary purpose is to educate children. Investing in education is the best, most effective use of state funds to ensure a thriving economy and a great future for the state of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,
Eileen Kron

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Stromme, Denise

From: Kathy & Austin Shug [austinchug@earthlink.net]
Sent: Thursday, November 15, 2007 10:58 AM
To: Sen.Lehman
Subject: SJR-27

Dear Senator Lehman,

I would like to register in favor of Senate Joint Resolution 27 (SJR-27) which call for a comprehensive change in WI. Public School Funding. because I see and believe that the present funding system does not meet the requirements of the cost of implementing the required state and federal education laws.

I believe funding levels should provide all children with a sound education.. I am a grandparent whose grandchildren did not receive an LD (learning disability) identification partly because of the cost of educating children with special needs.

I also belong to organizations that represent children with special education needs and I see many school districts in Wisconsin lowering there reading standards, eliminating Sp. Ed. teachers and programs, and not following IDEA and NCLB laws. The cost of quality education for our children and the revenue caps prevent school districts from raising enough education funds.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my views.

Kathryn Shug
44 Glen Arbor Way,
Fitchburg, WI 53711
608-278-1950

Stromme, Denise

From: PAULA LEGLER [paulalegler@msn.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 15, 2007 8:53 PM
To: Sen.Lehman
Subject: SJR27

Dear Senator Lehman,

As a teacher in Madison Metropolitan School District, I want you to know that I support SJR27.

The school funding formula is not just failing, it is destructive. Too many districts and schools are making cuts year after year with no end in sight. Functioning schools have been reduced to stressful, distracting and unsafe environments.

In my experience in this district I have seen the steady toll the funding formula is taking on the children and the learning community. With less resources, children are forced into larger groups with less support. Wisconsin teachers are either overworked, leaving the profession or burning out. Supportive parents who can afford to look elsewhere, are moving their children away from the public schools. All this because, in the underfunded Wisconsin public school, learning is becoming less a creative exploration and more an exercise in survival.

How much longer can our state government de-fund our future? The implications of ignoring this problem are grave.

Please support SJR27.

Sincerely,
Paula Legler

Stromme, Denise

From: mjglaspey@earthlink.net
Sent: Thursday, November 15, 2007 9:34 PM
To: Sen.Lehman
Subject: Resolution to reformulate education funding

Re: 2007 Assembly Joint Resolution 35 to change the state's school funding formulas.

Senator John Lehman,

We are in favor of reformulating the way education is financed in the state of Wisconsin. In fact this resolution is years overdue. Much damage to existing successful public schools has already taken place as evidenced by debilitating cuts in teacher positions and classroom supplies.

The face of this city's urban school child has changed over the last twenty years. Schools have morphed into social service agencies. Children are having their most basic needs met by their neighborhood school. In Milwaukee, 80% of the students are eligible for free or reduced breakfast, lunch and are sometimes served dinner; 22% of students require costly mandated special education; on-site health care is provided by nurse practitioners and has recently been expanded. The conditions that contribute to student failure are complex and won't be easily or quickly repaired. Inadequate and misdirected funding of our schools is one factor—children have educational needs that aren't being met. The state could start toward a partial solution by fully funding all mandated services and paying the entire share of the costs of education as agreed and expected.

Throw out the well intentioned, but basically faulty premise, that spending the same amount of money on each child is what is fair and adequate. That philosophy flies in the face of current research on education. Not only do children learn differently, requiring a variety of programs and costs, but minority and poor children have an additional hurdle. They come to school, already behind their white, middle-class counterparts, with limited language, and with character and confidence issues. Paul Tough, writer for the New York Times, illustrates the basic flaw in the "fairness" philosophy. In his article, "What it Takes to make a Student" (November 26th, 2006) he summarizes the viewpoint of the founders of KIPP, Achievement First and Uncommon Schools in this way: "The guiding principle for the four school leaders, all of whom are white, is an unexpected twist on the "separate but equal" standard: they assert that for these students, an "equal" education is not good enough. Students who enter middle school significantly behind grade don't need the same good education that most American middle-class students receive; they need a better education, because they need to catch up." Parents need to take responsibility for their children. But, for a host of reasons, many have not provided the foundation needed to on which to build. These children cannot succeed in a "fair" system that treats all children the same; not all circumstances are equal. For a good portion of children, disadvantages start at birth and compound from there.

Equal funding is not only a bad idea, it doesn't really exist. How does one justify a voucher student receiving an additional \$1000 compared to a public school student? How fair is that? At the district level, middle schools are weighted more heavily than high schools with regard to funding. More affluent districts might not like that they don't have as much money as they need but they are able to make up the difference in personal donations. Poorer populations of public school families don't have that luxury. Where's the fairness in that? An irate tax payer can get angry about higher tax levies and leave the city if he chooses. Most public school kids do not have the same luxury. They are captives of their dysfunctional lives, this city and its improperly funded schools.

It is time to put an end to regressive policies as seen with Title I and the state's backward practice of punishing financially responsible districts with less aid and rewarding wasteful practices with more aid. Stop the madness. Reform the formulas. Listen to and be guided by the people who are most knowledgeable about what's needed, and change the laws; fund education for the entire state through the state. Increasing local property taxes to make up for the state's abdication of its educational promise is gutting Milwaukee of its middle class, starving its seniors and discouraging businesses from locating here.

There are costs associated with educating children. Pay now or pay later by having to build more prisons to house the angry, illiterate drop-outs. Wisconsin needs to do more than say children are important. They need to act. The

quality of all our lives is inextricably linked to the success of its schools. Every student's future rests in your hands---Wisconsin's future rests in theirs.

Sincerely,
Dr. John and Mary Jo Glaspey
2971 S. Shore Dr.
Milwaukee, WI 53207

Stromme, Denise

From: lpncvp2 [dnowak@centurytel.net]
Sent: Saturday, November 17, 2007 5:07 PM
To: Sen.Lehman
Subject: SJR 27

My name is Lori Nowak.

I am a taxpayer, small business owner and parent of three children, all in the Waukesha District. I have been actively involved with my school system, learning about the yearly budget cuts, and speaking out to other parents to get involved and informed. I spoke at the forum held at Waukesha North many months ago, and took the trip to Madison this week Thursday *with* my two younger children to show my support for SJR 27.

I am very concerned because the current state funding law for education is *hurting* our schools. I encourage you to support the goals of this resolution and work with all legislators to develop a new funding plan. Wisconsin needs a plan whose primary purpose is to educate children. Investing in education is the best, most effective use of state funds to ensure a thriving economy and a great future for the state of Wisconsin. The cuts we at Rose Glen have already endured, are directly effecting my second grader. He is very smart, but with a class size this year of 27 the teacher has yet to have time to recognize this or challenge him enough. We are working together to keep him interested, but at second grade he is already bored ... and there is no gifted and talented program anymore through out the school. Nor is there a librarian, so while he is done early, he can not use the privilege of the library. He is shy, gets skipped, pushed around and bullied a little. There is no guidance counselor to speak to, make "friendship groups", and teach the classes about respect. Again his teacher is trying to help him, but she has 26 other students. He yet feels comfortable with his teacher.

As I mentioned I have two more children not yet in the school system. There is no end in sight of these yearly cuts. I will be in the education system for the next 15 years. What will our schools look like in 5 years? How about 10 years? I already see the difference and this is only my third year in the school system. Please help ... for the long run of education in Wisconsin, this is NOT going the right direction! I am sure we worked hard to become # 14 in the country, do we *really* think we are going to stay there?

Lori Nowak
S33 W28256 Wern Way
Waukesha, WI 53189
262-968-5364

Stromme, Denise

From: Chris McMahan [cmcmahan1@wi.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, November 19, 2007 8:53 AM
To: Sen.Lehman; Sen.Kedzie
Subject: SJR27

Dear Senators,

I am a parent and taxpayer in the Waukesha school district. I was unable to attend the November 15th hearing on SJR27, but would like to express my support of comprehensive funding reform. I see this as a critical issue, not only affecting the present and our children; but having an effect in the not-too-distant future on Wisconsin's economy in general. Please help us to get this reform effort off the ground.

Respectfully,
Chris McMahan